



**TRIBUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE
OCCASION OF OFFICIAL FUNERAL SERVICES IN HONOUR OF
THE LATE COMRADE ISAK ASHINKONO SHOOME “NANGATA”**

23nd DECEMBER 2017

OMUGULUGWOOMBASHE,

OMUSATI REGION

**Check Against Delivery*

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(Reg No 8208)

Directors of the Programme;

The Children, Grandchildren, and the Entire Bereaved Family of the Late Tatekulu Isak Ashinkono Shoome “Nangata”;

H.E. Dr. Nickey Iyambo, Acting President of the Republic of Namibia;

H.E. Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia;

Comrade Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary General of SWAPO Party;

Comrade Mukwaita Shanyengana, Chairperson of SWAPO’s Elders Council;

Honourable Hilma Nicanor, Deputy Minister of Veteran Affairs;

Honourable Members of Parliament;

Distinguished Service Chiefs and the Namibian Defence Force;

Honourable Erginus Endjala, Governor of Omusati Region and all Governors Present;

Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Josia Shikongo Taapopi, Omukwaaniilwa gwElelo lyoPamuthigululwakalo lyOshilongo shUukwaaluudhi naMeme Taapopi;

Ootatekulu Aakwaniilwa nOmalenga;

Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors;

Esteemed Traditional, Spiritual and Community Leaders;

Distinguished Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;

Members of the Media;

Fellow Mourners:

We are gathered here today to pay tribute to the Late Comrade Isack Ashinkono Shoome “Nangata”, who passed away on 13 December 2017 at Tsandi State Hospital at the age of 101 years.

Tatekulu Shoome was a humble freedom fighter and a remarkable human being. He symbolised self-sacrifice, humility and patriotism. I therefore join you, fellow mourners, to pay tribute to a person of extraordinary courage and boundless compassion.

The Late Tatekulu Isak Shoome is one of the key figures who identified the Omugulugwoombashe (Forest of Giraffes) as the appropriate base for military training for the then South West Africa Liberation Army (SWALA), the forerunner of the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO’s Military Wing. He knew the forest of Omugulugwoombashe well and even at the time of his advanced age he could still remember where to locate the trenches and makeshift watchtowers dating back to 1966.

Tatekulu Shoome’s involvement in the early political activism gave him the confidence and determination to fight against colonialism in all its forms and manifestations. It was due to his unwavering commitment to the liberation of our country that he suffered numerous persecutions, detentions and was put on trials on numerous occasions by the minority white apartheid colonial regime of South Africa.

In this regard, Tatekulu Shoome was actively involved in the formation of both the OPC and OPO. He was also one of those who were first trained at Ontamazi by the G1 group of the Commandos under the late Commander John Otto Nankudhu “Koshuanda” together with the Late Comrades Tuhadeleni Kahumba Kandola, Tatekulu Kornelius Weyulu Shelungu, Immanuel Shifidi, Lameck Iithete and many others who participated in the battle of Omugulu gwombashe on the 26 of August 1966, signalling the launching of our armed struggle by the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO ‘s Military Wing.

Throughout his life, he remained true to his principles as a loyal and disciplined member of the SWAPO party to which he had dedicated 57 years of his life to defend the unity, integrity and principles of the SWAPO Party.

Namibia has therefore lost a fearless freedom fighter who committed his entire life to the just cause of our freedom and who stood firm and never wavered until the dawn of our Freedom and genuine Independence on the 21st March 1990.

For this reason, he will forever be remembered as a fearless and gallant Veteran of Namibia’s Liberation Struggle by the current and future generations of Namibia.

May we all be consoled by the fact that he lived to see the dawn of independence of his beloved motherland and departs as a decorated veteran of our liberation struggle for his heroic deeds and enormous sacrifices for the cause of our freedom and genuine independence.

As we bid him farewell, allow me on behalf of the Nujoma family and indeed on my own behalf, to express our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the children and the entire bereaved family on the great loss of the Late Comrade Isack Ashinkono shoome “Nangata”.

It is my sincere wish that we may all be comforted and granted fortitude during this difficult time of mourning.

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!